

Amendments to the Claims:

1. – 22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously Presented) A system for detecting and rewarding the returning of shopping carts to a collection point, comprising a first detection means (5) to generate a first signal A during a purchase and a second detection means (7) to generate a second signal B when a shopping cart (1) is returned to a collection point (6), and a data processing unit to correlate the two signals A and B to issue a bonus,

wherein the first detection means (5) is for identifying or individualizing a particular customer by optical recognition of physical characteristics of the customer when generating the first signal A and includes an optical signal transmitter (15) located in the shopping center, and the second detection means includes a second optical signal transmitter (18) at the collection point (6) and a number of optical detectors (17) that cooperate with the first and the second signal transmitters (15, 18), said detectors being attached to the shopping carts (1) and being provided for the generation of signals A and B.

24. (Original) A system according to claim 23, wherein

the optical detectors (17) are provided with a read-write device (24) to write

the customer-owned data medium which comprises a chip card (25).

25. (Original) A system according to claim 23, wherein
a wireless forwarding of signals A and B to the customer-owned data medium
is provided.

26. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 23, wherein
at least one of the first and/the second optical signal transmitter (15, 18) are
made up of IR light sources.

27. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 23, wherein
the first optical signal transmitter (15) comprises a light signal (16) that is
modulated according to normal lighting of the shopping center.

28. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 23, wherein
the second optical signal transmitter (18) comprises of a light signal (19) that
is modulated according to the normal lighting of the collection point (6).

29. (Canceled)

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30. (Canceled)